

Appl. No. 10/757,945
Amdt. Dated July 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 16, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A nibbler tool having a housing supporting a die cutting head detachably fixed thereto and in turn having a punch type blade adapted for linear reciprocal motion with respect to the housing and with respect to a control bore within said die cutting head and wherein the housing includes a centrally disposed means for turning rotary motion into reciprocal linear motion in turn having a blade holding block for fixing the position of said blade to said block and for moving said blade within said central bore so as to effect progressive cutting of sheet material positioned between said die cutting head and said blade, said die cutting head having an inner end adapted for receipt in a die receiving bore formed in said housing, positioning means operable between a first intermediate position and a second position, said positioning means cooperating with said die cutting inner end and die receiving bore to restrain linear movement between said housing and said die cutting head in said first position yet simultaneously permitting operator controlled relative rotary movement of said die cutting head with respect to said housing in said first position.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The nibbler tool of claim 1, said die cutting head inner end being cylindrically shaped and adapted to rotate with respect to said housing ~~and positing~~ said positioning means ~~[[for]]~~ fixing the relative rotational position of said die cutting head with respect to said housing in said second position thereof.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The nibbler tool of claim 2, said inner end having an inwardly directed circumferential groove, said positioning means in turn mounted in said housing and adapted to extend into said groove to restrain relative linear movement in ~~[[a]]~~ said first intermediate position and to restrain both relative linear and relative rotational movement in a fully locked second position.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The nibbler tool of claim 3, said ~~positing~~ positioning means being a set screw of an axial extent slightly less than that of said groove and movable within a secondary housing bore to said first position wherein said screw is adapted to contact opposed sides of said groove but not the base of said groove and alternatively to said second position wherein said screw contacts the base of said groove.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The nibbler of claim 3, said die cutting head having an intermediate surface portion provided with a hand grippable high friction surface to assist an operator in manipulating the die cutting head to different rotational positions relative to the housing during operation of the tool.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of cutting fixed position sheet material with a nibbler tool of the type having a housing supporting a die cutting head detachably fixed thereto and in turn having a punch type blade adapted for linear reciprocal motion with respect to the housing and with respect to a control bore within said die cutting head and wherein the housing includes a centrally disposed means for turning rotary motion into reciprocal linear motion in turn having a blade holding block for fixing the position of said blade to said block and for moving said blade within said central bore so as to effect progressive cutting of sheet material positioned between said die cutting head and said blade, said die cutting head having an inner end adapted for receipt in a die receiving bore formed in said housing, positioning means cooperating with said die cutting inner end and die receiving bore to restrain linear movement between said housing and said die cutting head yet simultaneously permitting operator controlled relative rotary movement of said die cutting head with respect to said housing in a first intermediate position and to restrain all relative movement between the die cutting head and the housing in a second locked position, comprising the steps of placing said positioning means in [[a]] said first intermediate position wherein relative rotation between the die cutting head and housing is permitted and thereafter hand supporting and moving said tool while in an active cutting operational mode in a cutting path through said sheet

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material while simultaneously altering said path by manipulating said die head to change the relative rotational position of said die head with respect to said housing.

Claim 7 (new): The nibbler tool of Claim 4 wherein the groove has a flat bottom surface and said screw also has a flat bottom surface.